



February 1, 2023

TO: Rob DiSpirito, City Manager

FROM: Bryan Barnett-Woods, AICP, Vision Zero Coordinator

VIA: Emad Elshafei, P.E., Chief of Traffic & Transportation
Craig L. Simoneau, P.E., Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Vision Zero Implementation Quarterly Update

This is the tenth Vision Zero quarterly report for the Mayor and Council and provides a status update for Vision Zero action items from the past three months. The update represents progress made on action items during the second quarter of FY 2023, roughly during the period between October 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. While no new action items were completed over this quarter, sub-objectives of action items were completed, and ongoing work such as organizing, scheduling, researching, materials development, engagement, budget development and other efforts have taken place.

This memorandum includes a summary of the progress made on several action items, coordination efforts within City staff from different departments, and engagement with external groups and agencies. It also provides an update on the status of both the Bikeway Master Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Staff does not presently recommend any revisions to the Vision Zero Action Plan timeline.

Summary of Action Item Progress:

The Progress Table (Attachment A) shows the status and progress of all action items since the plan's adoption. These action items are also identified in the Action Plan timeline (Attachment B). Below is a summary of progress made on several Vision Zero action items during the previous quarter. Please note that not every action item is included in the list below:

1. Crash Analysis / Predictive Analysis

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Staff has completed the second crash analysis. This updated analysis includes crash data from January 2017 to December 2021. While there were fewer serious injury crashes during this time period compared to the 2016-2020 analysis, there were three more fatal crashes. Similar to the last analysis, more fatal crashes occurred on roadways owned and maintained by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). The fatal crashes were at the following locations:

Roadway Name	Ownership	Fatal Crashes
Rockville Pike (MD 355) *	MDOT SHA	5
Hungerford Drive (MD 355)	MDOT SHA	2
Norbeck Road (MD 28) *	MDOT SHA	2
W Montgomery Avenue (MD 28) *	MDOT SHA	1
Ardennes Avenue	City of Rockville	1
Beall Avenue	City of Rockville	1
E Gude Drive	City of Rockville	1
McAuliffe Drive	City of Rockville	1
N Washington Street*	City of Rockville	1
Parking Lot	Private Property	2
Total		17

* Street is included in the High Injury Network

Additionally, the updated High Injury Network includes five roadways:

Roadway Name	# of KSI Crashes	From	To
Rockville Pike (MD 355)	14	Veirs Mill Road (MD 586)	Halpine Road
W Montgomery Avenue (MD 28)	6	Research Boulevard	Mannakee Street
First Street/Norbeck Road (MD 28)	6	First Street Spur	Avery Road
Frederick Road (MD 355)	6	Ridgemont Avenue	Redland Boulevard
Veirs Mill Road (MD 386)	5	Midway Avenue	Twinbrook Parkway
North Washington Street	4	Hungerford Drive (MD 355)	W Jefferson Street (MD 28)

North Washington Street is the only segment on High Injury Network that is maintained by the City of Rockville. Construction on a road diet and complete streets project that includes North Washington St., began in January 2023.

2. Update City Road Design Standards

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The Engineering Division staff has completed their review of the existing City Street Standards incorporating changes and comments received by the Traffic and Transportation Division staff. Once a final review is completed, the new standards will be submitted to the Director of Public Works for approval.

3. Review Transit Stops

Staff coordinated with Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Ride-On on the relocation of two bus stops along MD 355. The first stop proposed for relocation is the southbound stop north of Edmonston Road (#25582) and is proposed to move approximately 250 feet closer to the Edmonston Road intersection. The second proposed stop is the northbound stop south of Country Club Road (# 25562) and is proposed to move approximately 330 feet closer to the County Club Road intersection. Once MCDOT Ride-On confirms moving these stops, staff will coordinate with the City's Construction Management Division for the best approach to remove stops and install concrete, as well as collaborate with MDOT SHA to obtain permits for the construction.

4. Evaluate Crossings and Unsignalized Intersections & 6. Improve Traffic Signals

DPW staff has evaluated intersection improvements submitted by the City's consultant at five City-maintained, Vision Zero intersections. The five intersections reviewed are: East Gude Drive and Taft Street/Court, Edmonston Drive and Lewis Avenue, Fleet Street and Wootton Parkway, Preserve Parkway and Wootton Parkway, and Seven Locks Road and Wootton Parkway. Staff has provided comments to the consultant team and the completed report is expected in February 2023.

The 11 Vision Zero intersection safety audits on state-maintained roadways for Action Items # 4 & 6 are under review by MDOT SHA Office of Traffic Safety. City staff met with MDOT SHA on January 26, 2023, and MDOT SHA provided an update on the progress made for the intersection safety audits at those 11 intersections. The completed audits and results are expected to be shared with the City in March 2023.

5. State/Montgomery County/City Project Collaboration

City staff regularly meets and coordinates with staff from MDOT SHA, MCDOT, and M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department.

As indicated in #4, above, the completed audits at 11 Vision Zero intersections are expected to be shared with City staff in March 2023.

MDOT SHA confirmed that they would be implementing sidewalk ADA improvements along MD 355 between Edmonston Drive and First Street, and between E. Jefferson St and Monroe Place. These improvements are funded through their system preservation program and focus

specifically on ADA accessibility. Designs for the first section (Edmonston Drive to First Street) will be shared in the spring.

7. Accelerate Sidewalk Construction

City staff participated in a field visit to evaluate the first six sidewalk gaps included in the feasibility study. These include Frederick Avenue, Highland Avenue, Monroe Street, Nelson Street, Reading Terrace, and Wood Lane. Staff has also reviewed initial findings from the consultant and provided comments.

Staff has coordinated with MDOT regarding the scope and grant agreement for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant project to study feasibility of five sidewalk gaps in the Twinbrook neighborhood. The first draft of the grant agreement is expected by January 31, 2023, and will be shared with the City Attorney's Office.

8. Create Pedestrian Master Plan

Staff continues to work on development of the Pedestrian Master Plan, which is discussed in detail below.

9. Expand Network of Safe Bicycle Facilities

Staff continues to work on expanding bicycle facilities throughout the City, which is discussed in detail below as part of the Bikeway Master Plan implementation.

11. Explore Expanding Automated Enforcement

The Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) continues to carry out automated traffic enforcement. Purchase orders have been issued for six fixed pole speed cameras and nine portable camera units. The order for replacing red light cameras has been determined. Additionally, RCPD staff meets with the automated enforcement vendor weekly.

A new speed camera will be installed on the 900 block of Veirs Mill Road in both eastbound and westbound directions. The units will be in place in February 2023. There will be a warning/grace period for one month and citations will be issued starting March first.

12. Expand Traffic Law Enforcement and Distracted Driving Detection Program

RCPD started the application process for the FY 2024 Maryland Highway Safety Office Grant for Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, and Speed Enforcement.

16. Create Comprehensive Outreach Strategy

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DPW and PIO staff drafted three articles related to multimodal transportation safety for Rockville Reports. Two articles are related to Winter Drive Safety and Pedestrian Safety tips. The third article discusses the Vision Zero Task Force crash response for serious injury or fatal crashes. These will be in the February Rockville Reports.

25. Create Vision Zero Webpage

The most recent quarterly update was posted online along with the most up to date progress chart and timeline. Additionally, the Vision Zero projects webpage was updated to include the ongoing sidewalk feasibility studies, and the MDOT SHA sidewalk projects.

26. Publish Collision Data

Staff continues to provide links to the Automated Crash Reporting System. Additionally, staff shares the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee (RPAC) developed monthly crash statistics summary.

Pedestrian Master Plan Update:

Staff continues to make progress on the Pedestrian Master Plan, Vision Zero Action Item #8. DPW staff has prepared an initial draft of the plan to share with the public in February 2023.

Additionally, the Pedestrian Master Plan project webpage (<https://engagerockville.com/pedestrian-master-plan>) is active and provides opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about the project, submit ideas and questions, and provide comments through an interactive map and survey. There have been 239 survey responses and 88 location comments submitted so far, this includes 26 new survey responses and four map comments since last quarter.

Bikeway Master Plan Update:

The Vision Zero Action Plan has set a goal of building all bike facilities proposed in the City's Bikeway Master Plan (BMP) by 2028 (action item #9). The City recently received two awards from the Kim Lamphier Maryland Bikeways Network Grant program to fund a 30% design plan for a bicycle lane on Martin's Lane, from Mannakee Street to N. Washington Street. The Mayor and Council authorized the City Manager to execute the grant agreements in January 2023. Once the agreements are fully executed, these projects will commence.

Internal Staff Coordination:

Staff from Rockville's Police Department, Public Information Office, and the Department of Public Works correspond regularly to discuss the status of individual action items and coordinate on how to accomplish Vision Zero goals within the city.

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Engineering: Traffic and Transportation staff coordinates with Engineering staff to update the roadway cross sections to include multimodal improvements.

Education/Outreach: The Public Information and Community Engagement Division continues to educate the community at large about Vision Zero principles and transportation safety practices.

Enforcement: Transportation safety remains a priority for the RCPD. Patrol teams and the traffic unit continue to focus efforts on specific locations and issues based on collision data, known trouble spots, and community complaints. The RCPD coordinates with RPAC to develop a monthly crash report which highlights all crashes over the past month and is shared with community stakeholders and RCPD officers.

Vision Zero Task Force: The Vision Zero Task Force includes staff from multiple divisions in DPW, RCPD, and the PIO office. The Task Force meets quarterly to discuss ongoing progress of the Vision Zero Action Plan and meets when needed to carry out a crash response inspection when a serious injury or fatal crash occurs and will be fully invested by the County's Crash Reconstruction Unit.

In response to three crashes in November and December 2022, the Vision Zero Task Force completed the crash response inspection along a segment Rockville Pike (MD 355) near Talbott Street, where two crashes occurred, and along a segment of E. Gude Drive near Taft Street, where the third crash occurred. As a result of the inspection, staff notified MDOT SHA of pavement markings along Rockville Pike and Norbeck Road that need to be refreshed and a sign that needs to be replaced on Rockville Pike. DPW staff also added restriping crosswalks and stop bars on E. Gude Drive at Taft Street to the pavement marking list.

Coordination with Other Groups:

This Action Plan requires aligning policies and practices at all levels of government (City, County, and State) and across City commissions and committees, making safety the highest priority for all roadways.

The Traffic and Transportation (T&T) Commission, Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC), and RPAC: The T&T Commission, RBAC, and RPAC has been kept up to date about the City's Vision Zero efforts during their regular monthly meetings. Staff provides project briefings and status updates for transportation projects.

Montgomery County: Staff continues regular communication with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department, both of which include their own Vision Zero coordinators. Staff discuss ongoing projects including Vision Zero messaging and outreach, sidewalk maintenance and construction efforts, crash data and prediction analyses, and the bus rapid transit projects.

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Maryland State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA): Staff works closely with MDOT SHA and the County to ensure a consistent approach to transportation safety. Additionally, staff submits safety and maintenance requests along state roadways and at State-controlled intersections for review by the MDOT Office of Traffic Safety and Office of Highway Development.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOG): Staff attends the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, Car Free Day Subcommittee, and the Bike-to-Work-Day Subcommittee, which all provide ideas and opportunities to promote safe walking and bicycling.

The City is currently engaged in two MWCOG funded projects, a Complete Streets feasibility study for Fleet and Monroe Streets, and a protected intersection analysis for Beall Avenue at Maryland Avenue and MD 355.

Next Steps:

Staff will continue to work on Vision Zero action items per the action item timeline. The next update will be provided to the Mayor and Council in May 2023. The report will consist of a written progress summary, the action item timelines, an updated action plan progress chart, and a presentation. Staff will continue to focus on the Pedestrian Master Plan, and to advance sidewalks and bicycle lane projects.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Action Items Progress Chart – 02-2023 (PDF)

Attachment B - Action Items Timeline - 02-2023 (PDF)